



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES  
RICHARD MILLER  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

STEVE ARWOOD  
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL**  
**3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H**  
**Lansing, Michigan**

**STUDY SESSION MINUTES**

August 13, 2013  
9:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Vice Chairperson Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
David Purchase, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Township Association  
Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio  
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association  
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association  
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union  
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**BFS STAFF PRESENT**

Joseph Grutza, FFTD Manager  
Paula Brzezinski, Curriculum Specialist  
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary  
Michael Deprez, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Patrick Nahgahgwon, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association  
James Edwards, Detroit Fire Department  
Orlando Gregory, Detroit Fire Department  
Robert Stokes, Detroit Fire Department  
Daniel Oberst, Lansing Fire Department

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Vice Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was determined present.

**Administrative Rules**

Vice Chairperson James opened the work session with the goal to finalize the draft of the rules rewrite for PA 291 of 1966 by the end of the study session. Council reviewed the entire document and identified a few areas that needed clarification. LARA's Liz Arasim will do final review. Vice Chairperson James stated that the thorough discussion over the document proved advantageous.

### **Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Fireworks Safety Fees Budget**

Due to a recent change in the Fireworks safety Act, the entire 6% fee on consumer fireworks (fireworks safety fund) goes to the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council for fire training. LARA finance indicated that they will have the total amount of funding by the end of August for this fiscal year. \$1 million has already been appropriated for the fiscal year. Any unused funds will roll over year to year. The amount was agreed upon by the legislature and was based on last fiscal year's money collected. The Council sets the budget.

Fire Marshal Miller and Mike Deprez covered different challenges the Bureau is currently facing. The items discussed varied from collecting safety fees, the lack of staffing, the refund process, citations and the appeals process. Also discussed was the relationship with LARA Finance, Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General and the steps being taken to resolve their concerns. Vice Chairperson James conveyed the Council's intent to be partners with the Department to better fire fighter knowledge and education.

Councilperson Purchase discussed the MFFTC appropriations committee recommendations and what that group felt were necessary expenditures.

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<b>\$477,250.00</b>	Level I Basic Training (includes Fire Fighter I, II, I/II, Drivers Training, HazMat Operations and NIMS)
<b>\$40,000.00</b>	Fireworks training
<b>\$150,000.00</b>	Staffing/secretary
<b>\$348,000.00</b>	Officer training (includes Company Officer and prerequisites)
<b>\$84,150.00</b>	MFFTC elective training

On behalf of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Councilperson Purchase reported there are three things that their association wants to be taken into consideration in spending the fireworks funds.

- 1) 98% of chiefs have a problem with the IMS system. Changing the software within the bureau is a big ticket item.
- 2) NFIRS compliance is important. Just under 80% of departments reporting, leaves room for improvement. NFIRS training around the state is instrumental in accomplishing the task of getting a higher compliance percentage.
- 3) IFSAC accreditation of the Bureau of Fire Services/Fire Fighter Training Division.

There was a discussion on exploration of costs and procedure for IFSAC accreditation. On the IMS issue, State Fire Marshal Miller offered to have someone come in from Acela (alternative data base system) to discuss their program with Council. Vice Chairperson James states that would be beneficial.

Vice Chairperson James suggests there should be a commitment by the Bureau to appoint a full time program manager for NFIRS. The training portion is a small component. Mike Deprez explains that the Bureau is moving toward streamlining staff responsibilities. Vice Chairperson James expresses this being the ideal time to consider the IFSAC accreditation program. He also conveys the importance of the county money going to the counties for training.

Mr. Deprez stated that FEMA is offering, for the first time to a state agency, up to a \$500,000 grant with a 15% match. The Bureau would like to apply for this grant with the funds being used to upgrade the data system for the Fire Fighter Training Division. The Council supports using the fireworks fund to provide the 15% match, setting \$75,000 aside.

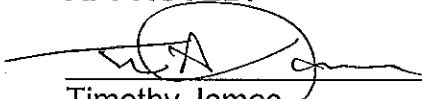
Extensive discussion resulted in agreement to increase the reimbursement rate for course expenses from \$25.00 to \$45.00 per course hour.

Director Grutza inquired to Fire Marshal Miller whether the \$250,000 general fund money had been allocated yet for FY 2014. Fire Marshal Miller seemed to think that it would not be allocated this year. Councilperson Purchase stated that if it was not allocated, then the Council would go back to Representative Stamas for clarification since the Fireworks Safety Fund was to be used to supplement the county funding, not replace it.


## **2. ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

### **APPROVED:**

  
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Timothy James  
Vice Chairperson

  
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Brian P. Blomstrom  
Councilperson

  
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Joseph A. Grutza, Manager,  
Bureau of Fire Services  
Fire Fighter Training Division

